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## **Autumn Term 2020 Local Authority Funded Home to School Transport**

Dear *Parent/Carer*

We are writing to you with regard to *Your Child/ren's* Local Authority funded transport arrangements to school.

We are planning for September when all children are expected to be attending their specialist provision. The Department for Education (DFE) has advised that social distancing will not apply to local authority contracted services. The transport service utilises a variety of vehicles, many specialised, so that they best support the children travelling. The principle behind loading vehicles is that we sensibly use all the capacity across our whole 'fleet'.

We expect to use all our vehicles in the Autumn term, we are not sure if that will allow all vehicles to run with their current optimal capacity. Where it is appropriate, we will ask our operators to help by double running their vehicles, when that works with how schools have organised their day. Recognising that travelling in shared transport might make children with medical conditions more vulnerable, and in order to help us maximise the capacity of available transport, we plan to widen our offer of parental mileage allowances in the Autumn Term 2020.

A parental mileage allowance is a financial re-imbursement for parents and carers who transport their child to and from school each day. Where parental mileage allowances are mutually agreed, we reimburse mileage from home to school and back home again, twice a day (two round trips in total). These journeys can be undertaken by a parent, carer, friend or family member. Parental mileage allowances

*Director of Children's Services*  
**Steve Crocker OBE**

during the autumn term will be paid directly to a family in advance, on a monthly basis.

We have recently written to some families to offer them the opportunity to accept a parental mileage allowance on a longer-term basis (for a minimum of one academic year) and you may have already responded to that offer. However, in the light of the recent advice from the DFE we are extending this offer to families of all pupils who attend a SEN school or a resourced provision at a mainstream school, specifically offering a parental mileage allowance on a short-term basis for the Autumn term. The expectation, in many cases children will return to school transport in January 2021. Even if we have already contacted you about a longer-term arrangement, we are writing to you again so that you are aware of our planning for the Autumn term.

An indication of how much could be paid for the term is set out in the table below:

Miles from your home to school	Approximate amount for Autumn term
3 miles	£302.40
5 miles	£504
10 miles	£1008

(amount based on 72 days over 4 months, please note these figures do not take into account any individual school inset days)

A parental mileage allowance for just the Autumn term offers you, your child and the school the following benefits:

- A safe, exclusive transport arrangement for your child to travel to school;
- Control over your child's pick-up and drop off times to better suit your family needs and match the way the school is organising its day;
- The opportunity for your child to take part in extra curricula activities that may be possible during the Autumn Term.

If you want to take advantage of this offer please email [jane.atherton2@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jane.atherton2@hants.gov.uk) immediately, providing a telephone number so that we can call you back. If you want that call at a certain time, please state in your email what time(s) would be best. Please note the urgency as we must confirm all arrangements before the end of July.

Yours Sincerely



Jane Atherton  
Project Manager  
Home to School Transport Service